

Perrow Church Family,

Last week, I preached a sermon from Acts 2:42-47. It was titled “Church Life” and the goal of the sermon was to challenge our devotion, single-mindedness, and commitment of being a unified congregation. Many of you have sent me words of encouragement or commented on how the sermon personally challenged you. Some of you have told me how it has spurred you on towards a greater sense of devotion to what God is doing in and through Perrow Church. If you missed last week, I’d encourage you to listen or watch the sermon by going to our website (perrowchurch.com) and clicking on the “resource” tab.

During the sermon, we saw how the early church was devoted—meaning they were single-minded about, they were unified around—a common set of beliefs and behaviors. They were devoted to the apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, the breaking of bread, to prayer, and to having all things in common. And we saw the results of their devotedness. There was an awe of God. The miraculous happened. There was no one in need in their community. They experienced favor from all people. And God added to their number, daily, people who were being saved.

Things that we Christians desire to see in our own church, yet something we don’t usually experience. And in describing what could and should be our experience and asking you to compare ourselves to the devotedness of the early church—I asked you to text in your answers to this question: ***What do you think keeps us from being a church like we’ve read about in Acts?***

And your response was nearly overwhelming.

1. “We’re afraid to get close to other people.”
2. “People are, in general, selfish and we have a ‘me’ attitude instead of a ‘we’ attitude.”
3. “Busy lives and selfishness.”
4. “Not dedicated enough, ‘too busy’, people don’t really care enough, there’s all kinds of excuses. We’re lazy and selfish is basically why we aren’t a church like that.”
5. “We are not together often enough to form these relationship. We seldom break bread together outside of the sanctuary.”
6. “We are not unified in purpose and we are too involved in ‘other’ things that are often deemed more important.”
7. “We have lost the true purpose of the church and view it as a social or country club, seeking what we can get from it rather than what we can give to it and each other.”
8. “Everyone has a different way of living their day to day lives.”
9. “We become to wrapped up in our daily life and busy schedules of modern life to take time and put God first.”
10. “We are not all committed to being in community groups and meeting together.”
11. “We have a cart before the horse mentality. We think that if the church was already doing and experiencing these things, of course we’d come along.”
12. “For the sake of preserving a fragile faith we choose the safety of believing what we have seen.”
13. “Not meeting in homes...enough.”
14. “We are not eager and do not run towards helping each other when in need.”
15. “Trying to serve two masters.”

First, there’s good news. Those who responded were willing to be honest. We recognize that there’s a problem. Your answers demonstrate that you understand what the Bible says we should be doing compared to what we are doing. Again, lots of good observations in your answers.

But here’s my question.

What are you going to do about it?

Yes you. The one reading this letter. The one who thinks I'm talking not talking to you.

I made a simple appeal near the end of my sermon. For the sake of unity. For the sake of our single-mindedness. For the sake of your church—Perrow Church—being a powerful witness of the resurrection of Christ...***will you participate in a Community Group?***

Community Groups are our fellowship gatherings that meet throughout the week to study the Bible, care for one another, pray for each other, all in the context of friendships. Our church will not be unified, we will not be single-minded, Perrow Church will not be a powerful witness to the resurrection of Christ unless all of us are devoted to being in a Community Group. Every person of Perrow needs to commit to growing in our faith with one another, so that what we could and should experience becomes our reality.

And...

For the sake of unity. For the sake of our single-mindedness. For the sake of your church—Perrow Church—being a powerful witness of the resurrection of Christ...if you're already in a Community Group ***will you add one time during your week where you will meet with people from Perrow to encourage and care for one another?***

Go visit the person highlighted in our "Caring for One Another" section of the Weekly. Grab lunch with the family who sits behind you in the sanctuary. Schedule a breakfast with the person who greets you every week when you walk into our building. The early church met daily with one another and they experienced God's blessing in ways we can only imagine. Can we spare a day or two of our week, so that we become a powerful witness to the resurrection of Christ?

Problems are easy to spot. Excuses are easy to come up with.

Answers are more difficult to come by. Doing what you know you should do is usually the harder choice.

But for the sake of the witness of your church. For the everlasting hope that so many are lacking in your workplace, school, and family. So that many might find joy in Jesus.

What will you do?

Will you help Perrow become a unified, single-minded, devoted powerful witness to the resurrection of Christ? Or will you hold us back, making our witness weak and ineffective?

The choice is ours Perrow Church. The choice is yours.

Pastor Josh